



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS 6 CHILD PREDATORS IN DENVER

All the arrested predators are foreign nationals who are in deportation proceedings

DENVER—Six child predators were arrested here so far this month by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of an ongoing national initiative called “Operation Predator.”

Most of those arrested were identified by ICE special agents who routinely check Denver’s Sex Offender Registry. All those arrested are either illegal aliens or U.S. permanent residents. As foreign nationals, all have been placed into removal proceedings for eventual deportation back to their countries of origin.

Following is a summary of those arrests:

- Juan Lopez-Montanez, 41, an illegal alien from Mexico, convicted of sexual assault on a child less than 13 years old, was sentenced to four years probation. He had also been previously deported in 1993 (a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison).
- Mauricio Vargas, 28, a permanent resident from Mexico, pleaded guilty to sexual assault with a child acquaintance less than 13 years old in July 2002, and delinquency of a minor. He was sentenced to eight years probation.
- Ramon Sotelo-Jurado, 47, a permanent resident from Mexico, was convicted of sexual assault on a child less than 13 years old in April 1996. He was incarcerated for 60 days and given four years in the Intensive Supervision Sex Offender Program.
- Rene Jesus Canache-Chable, 26, an illegal alien from Mexico, was convicted of sexual assault on a child less than 13 years old in August 2004. He was sentenced to two years probation.
- Isaac Valdez-Mendoza, 27, an illegal alien from Mexico, he overstayed his six-month visitor’s visa dated March 13, 2002. He was arrested in February 2004 and charged with sex assault on a 14-year-old girl, and sex assault/pattern of abuse, but skipped bond. He was re-arrested by the Castle Rock Police Department Feb. 5, and is awaiting his May 3 court date.

while being detained at the ICE/GEO Detention facility in Aurora, Colo. He has since married the under-age victim.

- Jorge Vidal Calderon-Calderon, 21, an illegal alien from El Salvador, was convicted of sexual assault on a 14-year-old girl and sentenced to three years probation.

“These cases highlight the serious problem of sexual predators in this country,” said Jeffrey Copp, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Denver Office of Investigations. “Our ICE special agents actively pursue these child predator cases because of the permanent damage they inflict on the most vulnerable in our society—our children.”

These arrests are part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,300 individuals, including more than 130 in Colorado.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. ICE investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.